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ILLINOIS.



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1890.



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# ILLINOIS.

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## ILLINOIS.

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Illinois, the seventeenth in area of the United States, but the fourth in population, extends from Wisconsin and Lake Michigan on the N. and NE. to the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers at the extreme SW.—a distance of nearly 400 miles. It is bounded on the E. by the state of Indiana, from which it is partly separated by the Wabash River; on the S. it is separated from Kentucky by the Ohio; and on the W. the Mississippi flows between it and the states of Iowa and Missouri. The area is 56,650 sq. m., or nearly that of England and Wales.

The surface of Illinois is the most level of any state in the Union, except Delaware and Louisiana; and its wide grassy plains, though broken by numerous streams fringed with belts of fine timber, have gained for it the name of the Prairie State. The drainage is towards the south-west, through streams which flow into the Mississippi. The Illinois River, the largest in the state to which it gives name, is formed by the union of two streams in the north-east of the state, about 45 miles south-west of Lake Michigan, and has a south-west course of about 500

miles in all, joining the Mississippi 20 miles above the mouth of the Missouri. The fertile soil—a heavy black loam—with a favourable climate, makes this the richest agricultural state in the Union; and Illinois ranks first for the production of corn, cattle, hogs, and horses.

The following is an exhibit of the chief crops for the year 1889, showing the acreage, product, and value:

	Acres.	Bushels.	Value.
Wheat . . . . .	2,052,388	37,201,916	\$26,093,250
Oats . . . . .	3,633,936	142,150,811	28,981,064
Corn . . . . .	6,988,267	247,980,589	58,337,049
Potatoes . . . . .	123,758	15,855,006	4,145,823
Rye . . . . .	204,873	3,803,419	1,466,229
Barley . . . . .	40,088	1,207,157	511,994
Hay . . . . .	3,176,281	(4,910,544 tons)	26,819,871
Total . . . . .	16,219,591	448,198,898	\$146,355,280

The mineral output of Illinois, especially of bituminous coal, is also large. Nearly a fifth of the entire coalfield of the United States is found in this state, where during the year 1889 there were 49 counties in which coal was mined, and 854 mines in operation. The number of tons of coal mined during the year was 11,597,963, and this industry alone gave direct employment to 30,076 persons, of whom 23,583 were miners. Other minerals are lead, limestone, salt, and fluor-spar, the last found near Rose-clare.

The position of Illinois presents unusual facilities for commerce. The rivers that cross or touch the state are navigable for over 400 miles, while by way of the great lakes Chicago has also a water-highway



to the Atlantic. Moreover, Illinois has more railroads than any other state: in 1889 these presented a total of 10,153 miles. The trade of the state centres in Chicago, and in the article on that city statistics are given, as well as some indication of the leading manufactures. Of these last the principal are connected with agriculture.

The state is divided into 102 counties. The governor and most of the other state officers are elected for four years, the judges of the supreme court for nine. The legislature meets biennially; and to the lower house each district returns three members, cumulative voting being permitted in order to provide for the representation of minorities. Twenty representatives are sent to the Federal congress. The provisions for education are liberal. The state maintains two normal schools, an agricultural college, and an industrial university; and besides these there are many other colleges and universities. A compulsory educational law is in force, which requires children between the ages of seven and fourteen to attend for at least sixteen weeks in the year some public day school, or some private school teaching the branches commonly taught in the public schools. In the year 1889 there were 763,411 pupils and 23,089 teachers in the common schools: and \$11,730,895 was expended in the support of these schools. The state charitable institutions include four hospitals for the insane, at Elgin, Kankakee, Jacksonville, and Anna; an institution for the deaf and dumb, and another for the blind at Jacksonville; an asylum for the feeble-minded at Lincoln; a home for the or-

phans of soldiers at Normal; an eye and ear infirmary at Chicago; a reform school for boys at Pontiac; and a soldiers' and sailors' home at Quincy. The average number of inmates for the year ending July 1, 1889, was 6024, and the ordinary expense of maintenance, including salaries, was \$1,005,617.

Formerly a part of the North-west Territory, Illinois was organised as a territory in 1809, and admitted as a state on 3d December, 1818. While the Federal law at that date made a population of 40,000 a condition of admission, it is well established that the actual population of Illinois was then but 34,620. In 1830 the population numbered 157,445; in 1850, 851,470; in 1870, 2,539,891; in 1880, 3,077,871, showing a remarkable increase. Chicago is by far the largest city of Illinois; its limits embrace nearly a fourth of the entire population of the state. Peoria, Quincy, Springfield (the capital), and Bloomington rank next in population. Important events in the history of Illinois have been the Indian wars of the territorial period, the Black Hawk war of 1832, and the Mormon (q.v.) troubles in 1840-44. The state raised six regiments for the Mexican war, and during the civil war contributed 259,092 men to the Union armies, of whom over 29,000 were killed in action or died of wounds or disease. At Springfield Abraham Lincoln lived before he was elected president, and there he is buried. See S. Breese, *Early History of Illinois* (Chicago, 1884); J. Moses, *Illinois, Historical and Statistical* (Chicago, 1889).











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